

# Service Area Plan

## Department of Health

### Anatomical Services (40301)

## Service Area Background Information

### Service Area Description

This service area provides donated cadavers to medical schools and research centers in the Commonwealth of Virginia for anatomical study. The nonprofit State Anatomical Program, supervised by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) within the Virginia Department of Health, is the only program in Virginia authorized to receive donation of human bodies for scientific study for the teaching of anatomy, surgery, and performing research in Virginia's medical schools, colleges, universities, and research facilities.

### Service Area Alignment to Mission

This service area is aligned with the VDH mission to promote and protect public health by providing anatomical material through a donor program to medical education and research institutions which are studying new ways to prevent illness, treat diseases, and develop innovative surgical techniques.

### Service Area Statutory Authority

The State Anatomical Gift Act, §32.1, Chapter 8, Article 2 and Article 3 of the Code of Virginia, provides the authority by which the program is operated through the State Health Commissioner. The sale of body parts is prohibited in Virginia. The Code of Virginia states who is eligible to donate their bodies, how bodies should be distributed, the records to be kept, the cremation or burial criteria, the importation of anatomical material, and the penalty for trafficking in bodies.

### Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Donors	500	750
Funeral homes	100	150
Government based programs	3	3
Medical schools/University and College Anatomy Programs	28	30
Nursing homes, hospice, assisted living centers	50	75
Research programs	6	9

### Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Base

It is anticipated that the average age of a donor will continue to rise as the life expectancy average increases.

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#### **Service Area Products and Services**

- Obtaining donor consent
- Mailing brochures and information
- Keeping a donor database
- Storing complete records on each donor
- Coordinating transport of deceased donors from the location of death to Richmond
- Embalming cadavers
- Preparing cadavers for medical school or research program delivery
- Filing the death certificate for donors
- Obtaining information from families
- Relaying information to schools if family requests the return of cremated remains
- Transporting prepared cadavers to medical schools and research centers
- Invoicing the schools per cadaver for expenses
- Ensuring the schools and research centers are educated in the program guidelines and the laws governing the program

#### **Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services**

New advances in embalming practices and and increased need of school programs for quicker delivery will result in increased expenses (e.g., gasoline, rapid body transport, and embalming) for the service area.

#### **Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services**

Due to the rising expenses (which include the rise of gas prices, body transport, and embalming fluid price increases) related to running the program, the Anatomical Program anticipates increasing its charge to schools for cadavers during during the 2006-2008 biennium (FY07).

To increase donations to meet the customer demands, the Anatomical Program is planning on providing more educational programs and mailings to assisted living facilities and hospice programs.

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#### **Service Area Financial Summary**

The State Anatomical Program budget comprises 100% Special Funds. Funding comes from the fees paid by the schools and research programs for each cadaver to cover the expense of staff, supplies, transport, embalming, and administrative costs. The current cost per cadaver is \$650.00.

Due to the rising expenses related to the program (including the rise of gas prices, use of transport companies, and embalming fluid price increases) the Anatomical Program anticipates increasing its charge to schools per cadaver.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$0	\$186,451	\$0	\$186,451
Changes To Base	\$0	\$10,256	\$0	\$10,256
<b>SERVICE AREA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$196,707</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$196,707</b>

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## Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

### Objective 40301.01

***Increase the number of donor cadavers available to medical schools and research centers in Virginia, in order to provide sufficient anatomical material to properly teach anatomy of the human body.***

#### This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Promote systems, policies and practices that facilitate improved health for all Virginians.  
( This goal also supports the long term objective of Virginia to elevate the level of educational preparedness and attainment of Virginia citizens.)

#### This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 40301.01.01**

***Number of cadavers provided to Virginia medical schools and research centers.***

**Measure Type:** Output

**Measure Frequency:** Annually

**Measure Baseline:** 310 cadavers during FY05.

**Measure Target:** 360 cadavers during FY07.

**Measure Source and Calculation:**

- The data source for this calculation is the numbering system used by the anatomical program each year to number the cadavers to protect their identities.
- This can also be measured by calculating the amount the recipient medical schools and research centers have been billed for cadavers.

#### Objective 40301.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Conduct an outreach program to 75 assisted living facilities to educate potential donors on the process and benefits of the donation program. This will increase the donor base with individuals that are at a time in their lives when they are planning for their eventual death. The outreach will include a mailing of informational brochures and on site presentations at facilities.
- Distribute materials for funeral directors to give to families who may want to use the program as an alternative to funeral services when family financial resources are limited.